

REMARKS

Applicant submits this Preliminary Amendment in connection with a Request for Continued Examination filed on even date herewith.

Applicant has amended the specification to address minor typographical errors. Applicant has amended FIG. 2 as shown in Exhibit A attached hereto. No new matter is believed to be introduced by these amendments.

Applicant has added new claims 23-26.

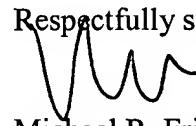
Applicant has amended claim 1 to replace the words "fitting about" with encircle. The Examiner has indicated to attorney for Applicant, by way of telephone interview, that such an amendment is patentable over the references of record.

Applicant has amended claim 20 to add a material indicated as allowable in claim 21. Applicant has added new claim 23 to cover the allowable material in claims 20 and 22. Applicant has amended claim 21 to depend from claim 23. Applicant has added new claim 24 which includes the limitation that the adjustable loop is "formed of a material flexible along its entire length." New claims 25 and 26 depend from new claim 24.

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application, and are in condition for allowance. Claims 5-9 have been allowed. Claims 2-4, 21 and 22 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by this Preliminary Amendment. Examination is requested and favorable action solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


Michael R. Friscia
Reg. No. 33,884
Attorney for Applicant
Wolff & Samson, P.C.
One Boland Drive
West Orange, NJ 07052
Tel.: (973) 530-2024
Fax.: (973) 530-2224